

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies shown them in the personal interview held on February 27, 2007. In attendance for the Applicants was Aaron Haleva, Esq., an attorney of record. Applicants' attorney described the invention and the various processes claimed. The Examiner and Applicants' attorney discussed the cited Saito reference, and agreement was reached that the independent claims would be amended to include modification of the subregions and spatial separation of the subregions.

REMARKS

This Amendment, in connection with the following remarks, are submitted as fully responsive to the Final Office Action. Claims 1, 21, 22, and 25 have been amended, and new claims 29 and 30 added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 21, 22 and 25 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ralf A. Kockro et al., *Planning and Simulation of Neurosurgery in a Virtual Reality Environment*, Neurosurgery, Vol. 46, No. 1 (2000) ("Kockro").

Independent claim 1 describes a method of displaying 3D data. The method includes providing at least one 3D data set defined by a 3D co-ordinate system, providing two or more subregions within the co-ordinate system, said regions being bounded in three dimensions, assigning a set of display rules to each subregion, and displaying part, all or none of a 3D data set in each subregion according to the rules assigned to that subregion. The method further provides that the two or more subregions are spatially distinct and their boundaries can be modified by a user.

Independent claims

As described in the Specification, the claimed method can be used to compare, for example, two 3D data sets generated from diagnostic scans of a human. For example, a user could define two cubic subregions sharing a common planar boundary to compare co-registered CT and MRI 3D data sets obtained from scanning a human head. Specification at ¶¶44-55; Figs. 9-24 (“Example Implementation”). The user can, for example, move the common planar boundary to view the head first using MRI data and then using CT data. *Id.* Or, for example, a user can move the two subregions through the 3D co-ordinate system in which the two 3D data sets are defined, and thus see a side by side comparison of cubic regions of the head under CT and MRI. *Id.* This allows, for example, a neurosurgeon a richer visualization of a patient’s relevant anatomy.

As discussed in the personal interview, Kockro describes displaying various segmented objects such as tumors and nearby arteries, in different colors. Kockro does not teach or suggest defining two or more spatially distinct subregions and assigning a set of display rules to each subregion. Moreover, Kockro deals with pre-segmented objects, and does not describe a user modifying the boundaries of a subregion so as, for example, to compare co-registered 3D data sets by moving the subregion boundaries, or by moving the subregions through the 3D space. Thus, Kockro does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 1-28, having been amended as discussed in the personal interview, are thus respectfully asserted as patentable over Kockro. New claims 29-30 are respectfully asserted as patentable for similar reasons.

If any questions remain as to the patentability of the pending claims, Applicants respectfully request the opportunity to have a follow-up interview with the Examiner, review

same, and present their point of view. The Examiner is thus invited to notify Applicants' undersigned attorney if such questions remain so that an interview can be scheduled.

No additional fees are believed due herewith. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deemed necessary for the entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Dated: May 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron S. Haleva', is written over a horizontal line.

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